



# Discussion

# GUIDE



American Library Association  
Social Responsibilities Round Table  
Coretta Scott King Task Force

Coretta Scott King Awards 2002

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Social Responsibilities Round Table  
Coretta Scott King Task Force

<http://www.ala.org/srrt/csking>



For over thirty years, books by African American writers and artists have been honored by receiving the Coretta Scott King Award. This Award promotes understanding and appreciation of the culture of all peoples and their contributions to the realization of the American dream. The Award is designed to commemorate the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to honor Mrs. Coretta Scott King for her courage and determination to continue the work for peace and world brotherhood. The multidimensional characteristics of the authors' and illustrators' works reflect the African American experience from both the historical and contemporary perspectives. Opportunities to celebrate the rich and powerful experiences through these books lie in the hands of the adults in children's and young adults' lives.

This **Discussion Guide** is, therefore, dedicated to those teachers, parents, librarians, booksellers and caregivers who are committed to enriching the lives of children and young adults with quality literature. Three broad thematic categories characterize this year's winners: Contemporary Urban Culture, Family Saga, Heroes, and Civil Rights.

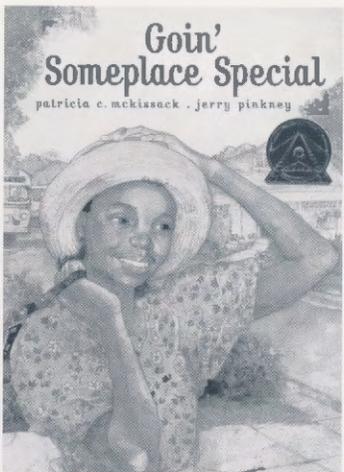
The **Coretta Scott King Award Discussion Guide** was prepared by members of the 2002 CSK Award Jury: ayo dayo, Chrystal Jeter, Nancy Kraus, Veronica Stevenson-Moudamane. Edited by Fran Ware, CSK Award Jury Chair.

Produced by the 2002 Honor-winning publishers Jump at the Sun/Hyperion and Front Street.  
Designed by Helen Robinson, Front Street.

# THE CORETTA SCOTT KING AWWARD

A Living Legend

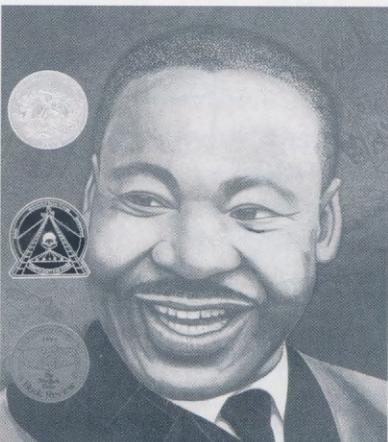
# ILLUSTRATOR



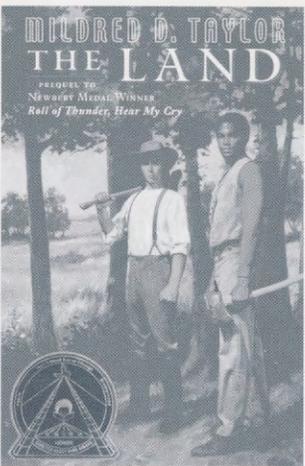
**AWARD BOOK**  
*Goin' Someplace Special*  
Patricia C. McKissack  
**ILLUSTRATED BY**  
Jerry Pinkney  
Anne Schwartz Book/  
Atheneum



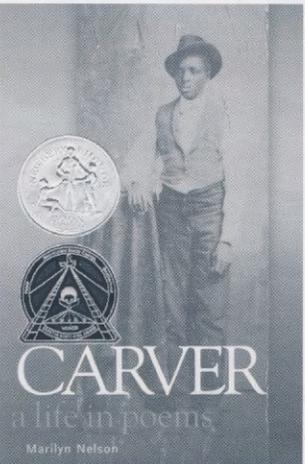
CSK/John Steptoe  
**New Talent Book**  
*Freedom Summer*  
Deborah Wiles  
**ILLUSTRATED BY**  
Jerome Lagarrigue  
Anne Schwartz Book/  
Atheneum



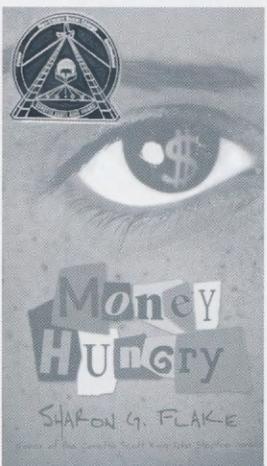
**Honor Book**  
*Martin's Big Words*  
Doreen Rappaport  
**ILLUSTRATED BY**  
Bryan Collier  
Jump at the Sun/  
Hyperion



**AWARD BOOK**  
*The Land*  
Mildred D. Taylor  
Phyllis Fogelman Books/  
Penguin Putnam



**Honor Book**  
*Carver: A Life in Poems*  
Marilyn Nelson  
Front Street



**Honor Book**  
*Money Hungry*  
Sharon Flake  
Jump at the Sun/  
Hyperion

# AUTHOR

**Money Hungry**

By Sharon Flake

Jump at the Sun/Hyperion

*Money Hungry* by Sharon Flake tells the story of thirteen-year-old Raspberry Hill who is starved for money and who will do anything legal to get her hands on a dollar. She is obsessed, driven and afraid of being homeless, so she keeps her eyes on the prize: the cold, hard cash.

When the green stuff greases her palm, she gets comfort from feeling its crinkly paper power. Raspberry kisses her cash. She smells it. She loves it. But even money can't answer the questions that keep Raspberry awake at night. Will she and her Momma ever move out of the projects? How can she convince her friends to participate in her get-rich-quick schemes? Where is their next dollar coming from? Raspberry never wants to be homeless again.

**Questions & Activities**

- What were the life/urban experiences that contributed to Raspberry's obsession with money?
- Which character in Raspberry's circle of friends can you best identify with and why?
- What did you think about the way *Money Hungry* ended? What would you change if asked to write a different ending?
- There are many slang words and phrases used to talk about money. List as many words and phrases as you can think of that describe money. Create a word search puzzle from that list. Examples: almighty dollar, green stuff, etc.

**Related CSK Titles***Fast Sam, Cool Clyde and Stuff*

Walter Dean Myers, Viking

*The Young Landlords*

Walter Dean Myers, Viking

*Forged by Fire*

Sharon M. Draper, Atheneum

**The Land**

by Mildred D. Taylor

Phyllis Fogelman Books/Penguin Putnam

As with most families, *The Land*, is complete with all the joys, sorrows, trials and tribulations that hallmark the vibrant and complex personalities that comprise a family. Taylor's *The Land* chronicles the triumphs and the struggles of the life of Paul-Edward Logan, whose father is a white slave owner, his mother, an enslaved African-Indian. Set in southern Mississippi during the late 1800s, Taylor's tightly constructed text and flawless character development swiftly carries the reader through each chapter, rejoicing over every triumph, and crying over every indignation and challenge as Paul-Edward works to secure his land. Taylor's text treats each character with respect and dignity and leaves the reader thinking and reflecting without anger or hatred for any particular character. This beautiful story vividly depicts a time long ago and provides context for issues of today.

**Questions & Activities**

- Which events in Paul-Edward Logans' life do you believe made owning land so important?
- How would the story be different without Mitchell Thomas? What does he represent?
- What kind of person was Paul-Edward Logans' father, Edward Logan? Give examples from the book.
- Construct a family tree of Paul-Edwards Logan's family from birth to his marriage.
- Draw a map (or create a diorama) of the piece of land Paul Logan purchased.
- Select three incidents or situations that touched you personally and describe how author Mildred Taylor made you (as a reader) feel after reading the incidents/situations you selected.

**Martin's Big Words**

by Doreen Rappaport  
 illustrated by Bryan Collier  
 Jump at the Sun/Hyperion

Martin Luther King a visible articulate activist and George Washington Carver a quiet unassuming scientist and inventor accept, in their own ways, the challenges of the times and emerge as heroes of their generation in ways different yet similar.

In *Martin's Big Words*, Bryan Collier's large bold illustrations capture the power and strength of Martin Luther King. As Martin accepts the challenge to lead his people, the reader sees him emerge into manhood.

The religious motif emphasizes the importance of God and church in Martin's life and for the movement. The artist's use of black highlights the characters and those objects of importance. Each page is a tribute to the work and struggles of Martin Luther King and the people who stood by his side ready to endure the indignities of the times. And although he is gone, like most heroes, his spirit lives on today. A beautiful exciting book for young readers.

**Martin's Big Words**

**Questions & Activities**

- How do we know that the church was an important part of Martin's life?
- What can you tell me about the bus in the story?
- What is different about life for black people then and life for black people now?
- What does the story say about good things people did and the bad things people did in the civil rights movement?
- Make a collage of Martin Luther King's life.
- Draw the signs and symbols from the story that determined which places, stores, or services black people could or could not use.

**Carver: A Life in Poems**

by Marilyn Nelson  
 Front Street

In *Carver: A Life in Poems*, the character and genius of the man quietly unfolds through poetry, letters and journal entries. Rich language and poignant phrases in rhythmic patterns delight the reader's senses and reveal George Washington Carver's nature. Never one to accept defeat, Dr. Carver seems undaunted by the challenges of life and regardless of the disappointments was always able to move forward. It is in his work that his spirit lives on. A must read for young adults.

**Carver: A Life in Poems**

**Questions & Activities**

- Talk about three different ways George Washington Carver shared the outcomes of his research and knowledge with others.
- What does "Poultry Husbandry" and "The New Rooster" tell the reader about George Washington Carver's view of people and what matters in life.
- So, what's so special about Egyptian Blue?
- Talk/write about the relationship between Dr. Carver and Dr. Booker T. Washington as revealed in Marilyn Nelson's poetry. Find three poems that provide specific insights.
- Replicate one of Carver's inventions.
- Select an event or incident described in Nelson's biographical poems.
- Conduct an investigation using resources other than *Carver: A Life in Poems*.
- Look for information left out or a point of view not mentioned in the particular incident or event you have selected.

**Related CSK Titles**

*Martin Luther King Jr.: Man of Peace*

Lillie Patterson, Gerrard

*Escape To Freedom: A Play About Young Frederick Douglas*

Ossie Davis, Viking

*Her Stories: African American Folktales, Fairy Tales, and True Tales*

Virginia Hamilton, Scholastic/Blue Sky Press

**Goin' Someplace Special**

by Patricia C. McKissack  
illustrated by Jerry Pinkney  
Anne Schwartz Book/Atheneum

*Goin' Someplace Special* is the author's own story of growing up in Nashville in the 1950's and the impact of Jim Crow laws. As Tricia Ann makes her first trip to the public library alone, she must ride in the "COLORED SECTION" in the back of the bus. As she walks through the city, she can't sit on the "FOR WHITES ONLY" bench in the park to look at the beautiful fountain her grandfather built. When she and her friend Jimmy Lee talk about not being able to eat at a restaurant he tells her, "Don't let those signs steal your happiness."

As Tricia Ann finally arrives at the library, she stops to look up at the message chiseled in stone across the front, "PUBLIC LIBRARY: ALL ARE WELCOME." Jerry Pinkney's realistic water colors portray a keen sense of place and transport the reader back to Nashville in the fifties. His expressive paintings of Tricia Ann fully capture her emotions as she draws on her own inner strengths to face the indignities of racism on her first solo trip to the public library.

*Freedom Summer* is the story of friendship of two young boys, one white and one African-American, during the summer of 1964 when the Civil Rights Act was put into law. John Henry and Joe enjoy a special friendship as they spend the long summer days together. When they hear that a law has been passed which opens the town pool "to everybody under the sun, no matter what the color," the boys are eager to go swimming together there. The next day, they run to the pool, only to find town workers filling it with concrete. Although the boys realize that it will take more than a law to make some people change, they seize a different new-found freedom and go into a store together to buy an ice pop. Jerome Lagarrigue's textural evoke the atmosphere of a southern summer and beautifully portray the strong bonds of friendship between Joe and John Henry.

**Freedom Summer**

by Deborah Wiles  
illustrated by Jerome Lagarrigue  
Anne Schwartz Book/Atheneum

Both of these books show the negative impact of Jim Crow laws on children, and at the same time show young people drawing on their own inner strength to combat the indignities of racism. Although fictional, both based on historical events and can introduce young children to the time when people fought for Civil Rights.

**Questions & Activities**

- Interview someone older than you know, a family member, friend, or neighbor to find out if they participated in the Civil Right Movement in the 1960's. Ask what they worked to change and why.
- Read about some of the leaders in the Civil Rights Movement and find one that inspires you the most. Write about why this person inspires you.
- If you lived at the time of the characters in these books, what would you want to change so much that you would work hard to try to change it?

**Related CSK Titles**

*Martin's Big Words*

Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by Bryan Collier

*Jump at the Sun/Hyperion*

*Let It Shine! Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters*

Andrea Davis Pinkney, Harcourt/Gulliver Books

*Bayard Rustin: Behind the Scenes of the Civil Rights Movement*

James Haskins, Hyperion Books for Children

*The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963*

Christopher Paul Curtis, Delacorte

*Now Is Your Time! The African American Struggle for Freedom*

Walter Dean Myers, HarperCollins

*The Road to Memphis*

Mildred Taylor, Dial

*Mississippi Challenge*

Mildred Pitts Walter, Bradbury Press



The CSK Award has grown since its inception in the late 1960s. At its humble inception at the May 1970 dinner gala of the New Jersey Library Association, Lillie Patterson was honored for her biography, *Martin Luther King, Jr., Man of Peace*. In 1972, CSK held its first breakfast at an ALA conference site (but without ALA recognition). Official affiliation with SRRT came in 1980 and in 1982 the American Library Association recognized the Coretta Scott King Award as an association award. Success of the CSK Task Force can be attributed to the work of tireless volunteers and visionary founders. For a more complete history consult two works: *The Coretta Scott King Awards Book, From Vision to Reality* edited by Henrietta Smith, American Library Association, 1994 and *The Coretta Scott King Awards Book, 1970-1999*, edited by Henrietta M. Smith, American Library Association, 1999.

Among their many other functions, book awards provide a simple means for casual browsers in bookstores and in libraries to find material that is engaging, well crafted, and satisfying both emotionally and intellectually. The Coretta Scott King Award particularly introduces the best in African American literature to all children. The Award now graces dozens of titles from picture books for the smallest children to novels and nonfiction for teenagers. In this guide, we have examined some of these titles from different angles and perspectives.

**The Coretta Scott King Award Seal** was designed by internationally known artist Lev Mills in 1974. The symbolism used in designing the seal centers around Dr. King's teachings and doctrines, the purpose for which the Award was founded. The basic circle represents continuity in movement, revolving from one idea to another. Within the circle is the image of a black child reading a book. The five main religious symbols below the image of the child represent nonsectarianism. The superimposed pyramid symbolizes both strength and Atlanta University, where the Award was headquartered at the time the seal was designed. At the apex of the pyramid is the dove, symbolic of peace, one of Dr. King's doctrines. The rays shine toward peace and brotherhood.